

8 November 2019

Army Public Health Weekly Update

Army Public Health Center

NOTICE: There will be no Army Public Health Weekly Update next week.

Publication will resume on 22 November 2019.



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NOTE:

If you are viewing the Army Public Health Weekly Update using Internet Explorer on a government computer with Windows 10, the external hyperlinks will be disabled per the [Security Technical Implementation Guide](#) (V-64927).

As a workaround, opening the Update using **Chrome** will enable the links.

We're sorry for the inconvenience.

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U.S. MILITARY

Medical tools, supplies 3D printed in desert deployment

1 November- The ability to 3D print a variety of healthcare-related products in deployed locations would greatly benefit the nation's warfighters. A recent pilot program conducted by the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences (USU) in collaboration with the U.S. Military Academy at West Point has shown that a 3D printer capable of biofabrication could expedite repair or perhaps replace damaged tissues for troops injured on the battlefield. This advancement could potentially change the way care deployed warfighters receive care. The pilot program, called Fabrication in Austere Environments, or Fab AE, was developed by USU's 4-Dimensional Bioprinting, Biofabrication, and Biomanufacturing Program (4D Bio3). 4D Bio3 is a federally-funded program to develop new technologies to support medical treatment and training solutions for warfighters. The Fab AE initiative is a collaborative effort between USU, West Point, and The Geneva Foundation, along with NScript and Techshot, and sought to demonstrate whether 3D printers could be forward-deployed into desert environments to fabricate medical products in austere settings where resources may be limited. The ruggedized 3D printer was sent to an undisclosed desert location with basic supplies and human mesenchymal stem/stromal cells (hMSCs), the only cells that allow for same-day bioprinting. On site, Army Lt. Col. Jason Barnhill, a faculty member of West Point and USU's Department of Radiology, led the project. Under his direction, the 3D printer successfully fabricated a number of products, including a scalpel capable of immediate use; and a hemostat, a surgical tool used to control bleeding during surgery and capable of gripping objects, while locking them into place to hold tissue or other medical implements. The tools were made of material that could be sterilized on site, reducing the chance of infection during practical use. [Health.mil](#)

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GLOBAL

A medication to treat meth addiction? Some take a new look at Naltrexone

7 November- ...Medication-assisted treatment with drugs like methadone, buprenorphine and naltrexone are standard care for people addicted to opioids, but there are currently no FDA-approved medications for meth addiction. Still a number of practitioners are beginning to experiment with treating meth use disorder with naltrexone — along with other medications like the antidepressant bupropion. And researchers are taking a look at naltrexone for meth too, finding some promising initial results. Dr. Keith Heinzerling, an addiction medicine specialist at the Pacific Neuroscience Institute in Santa Monica, California, says he prescribes naltrexone off-label, in combination with other medications for methamphetamine addiction if patients are interested in trying it. And he believes, when

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Yellow Jackets

Most people know and fear the yellow- and black-striped yellow jacket that invite themselves to late summer picnics. Yellow jackets are a type of wasp, which are often mistaken for bees. Bees, especially honey bees, are hairy/fuzzy and only feed on flower nectar, while yellow jackets have shiny bodies and feed on almost anything including insects, nectar, sap, sugary liquids, meat, and garbage. Paper wasps, yellow jackets, and hornets all belong to the insect family, Vespidae.



combined with physician oversight and counseling, it can be an effective treatment. "I think there's a great opportunity to try naltrexone," Heinzerling says. "There's actually a decent amount of evidence that it might help and if I had a family member [addicted to methamphetamine], I would recommend they try it." Heinzerling points to preliminary studies on naltrexone that support the idea that it might help reduce people's cravings for methamphetamine. Heinzerling believes naltrexone can have an anti-addiction effect for many drugs and potentially for other types of compulsive behaviors. But he cautions, much is still unknown and more research on drugs like naltrexone for methamphetamine is needed. Psychologist Lara Ray, a professor at the University of California, Los Angeles and head of the UCLA Addictions Lab, has done several several studies on the effectiveness of naltrexone for methamphetamine addiction. [NPR](#)

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A new Alzheimer's therapy is approved in China, delivering a surprise for the field but also questions

4 November- Chinese regulators have granted conditional approval to an Alzheimer's drug that is derived from seaweed, potentially shaking up the field after years of clinical failures involving experimental therapies from major drug companies. The announcement over the weekend has been met with caution as well as an eagerness from clinicians and others to see full data from the drug maker, Shanghai Green Valley Pharmaceuticals. The company said its drug, Oligomannate, improved cognitive function in patients with mild to moderate Alzheimer's compared to placebo in a Phase 3 trial, with benefits seen in patients as early as week four and persisting throughout the 36 weeks of the trial. It has been almost two decades since any Alzheimer's drug was approved. Oligomannate has received scant attention in the United States during its development. Although full data on the drug have not yet been made available, the conditional approval by regulators means Oligomannate, also known as GV-971, will on the market in China by the end of the year, Green Valley said. The company will have to submit additional research on the mechanism of the drug and its long-term safety and effectiveness to the country's National Medical Products Administration, Reuters reported. Green Valley also said it would launch a global Phase 3 trial next year in hopes of filing for approval in other countries as well. [STAT News](#)

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Controversy kicks up over a drug meant to prevent premature birth

4 November- An independent panel of advisers to the Food and Drug Administration recommended last week that a medication to prevent preterm birth be taken off the market because, the advisers decided, the preponderance of evidence suggests it doesn't work. But some other leading OB-GYNs say they hope the FDA won't take the panel's advice this time. The medication is a synthetic form of the hormone progesterone, brand-named Makena. "It was a really hard vote" says Dr. Vivian Lewis, professor emerita of obstetrics and gynecology

The Surgeon General Weekly Read Book

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<https://intelshare.intelink.sgov.gov/sites/medcom-g2/SitePages/Home.aspx>

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at the University of Rochester Medical Center in New York, and chairperson of the FDA advisory panel. The panel was made up of 16 people, including physicians of several specialties and statisticians. "It really came down to two camps," Lewis tells NPR. All agreed the totality of the evidence gathered so far does not support the medication's effectiveness for its intended use. But some advisers wanted to leave the medication on the market for now, and require additional study, while others thought it should be pulled. By a slim majority of just two votes the advisory board recommended the drug be taken off the market. Makena first gained FDA approval for sale in 2011, largely on the basis of findings from a 2003 study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health. [NPR](#)

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Dengue outbreak: 'Probably the worst we've had since 2010' says CDC epidemiologist

4 November- Dengue fever is seeing a massive resurgence in a number of countries around the globe and according to epidemiologist at the CDC's Dengue Branch in Puerto Rico, Tyler Sharp, and "This is turning out to be a very bad year for dengue, probably the worst we've had since 2010." There has been 2.7 million cases of dengue in the Americas, including more than 2 million in Brazil and more than 100,000 cases in Mexico, Nicaragua and Colombia so far. In South and Southeast Asia, countries are reporting significant increases: Bangladesh has seen nearly 97,000 cases to date, much more than all the cases reported total annually since 2000. In the Philippines, 360,000 cases have been reported and according to OCHA, this is the largest dengue outbreak in the last ten years, or since the disease has been monitored in the Philippines. Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore are all experiencing increases in cases in 2019. Even the tiny Pacific Island of Guam reported their first locally transmitted cases in 75 years. "Once you have a dengue outbreak that's occurring, it's quite difficult to stop it. It's also difficult to contain it," Sharp explained.

[Outbreak News today](#)

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E-Cigarette online stores in China asked to stop

5 November- The People's Republic of China has called for the cease of sales and marketing of e-cigarettes and vaping equipment online which could practically result in a total ban on the use of such materials. This move was conceived by a joint idea of a Chinese regulator and the state tobacco monopoly stating not only health concerns but also the rise in e-cigarette users. China's e-cigarette and vaping industry has been booming for the past years. According to a study by Tsinghua University's Public Health and Technology Supervision Research Group, China has more than 7.4 million e-cigarette users. Furthermore, it is the largest producer of e-cigarette products. [Tech Times](#)

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First use of CRISPR against cancer in patients clears early safety hurdles

6 November- The first attempt in the United States to use a gene editing tool called CRISPR against cancer seems safe in the three patients who have had it so far, but it's too soon to know if it will improve survival, doctors reported Wednesday. The doctors were able to take immune system cells from the patients' blood and alter them genetically to help them recognize and fight cancer, with minimal and manageable side effects. The treatment deletes three genes that might have been hindering these cells' ability to attack the disease, and adds a new, fourth feature to help them do the job. "It's the most complicated genetic, cellular engineering that's been attempted so far," said the study leader, Dr. Edward Stadtmauer of the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. "This is proof that we can safely do gene editing of these cells." [STAT News](#)

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Report shows drug-resistant infections climbing in England

4 November- A new report from Public Health England (PHE) shows an increase in antibiotic-resistant infections in England, despite a decline in antibiotic consumption. According to PHE's latest English Surveillance Programme for Antimicrobial Utilisation and Resistance (ESPAUR) report, there were an estimated 60,788 antibiotic-resistant infections in England in 2018, a 9% increase from 2017, when 55,812 drug-resistant infections were reported. That's the equivalent of 165 new antibiotic-resistant infections every day. The ESPAUR report also found that the number of bloodstream infections caused by seven priority bacterial pathogens rose by 15,000 from 2014 through 2018, an increase of 21%. And the number antibiotic-resistant bloodstream infections grew by more than 4,100—an increase of 32%—over that period. In particular, increased resistance to ciprofloxacin and third-generation cephalosporins in *Escherichia coli*—the most common cause of bloodstream infections in England—and *Klebsiella pneumoniae* were noted. That increase was associated with increased use of cephalosporin and quinolone antibiotics. Also of note is an increase in the detection of the most dangerous antibiotic-resistant pathogens, carbapenemase-producing *Enterobacteriaceae* (CPE), which rose from 72 isolates in 2009 to 4,028 in 2018. An analysis of 202 CPE infections identified between 2015 and 2019 found a 30-day mortality rate of 23.8%. [CIDRAP](#)

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Researchers use drones to pilot a new tool to fight malaria

5 November- Scientists seeking a breakthrough in the fight against malaria have used drones to spray rice fields in Zanzibar - not with traditional pesticides but with a thin, non-toxic film. The fields are typical breeding grounds for the anopheles mosquito - the type that transmits malaria, which the United Nations says kills a young child every minute and causes 75 percent of all under five deaths. Ninety percent of all cases occur in Sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Health Organization. The researchers, led by Bart Knols from Radboud University in The Netherlands, plan to sample the larvae and the mosquitoes in the fields before, during and after spraying it with the silicone-based liquid, Aquatain AMF, to test its impact. Malawi has used drones to map mosquito breeding sites but the researchers in Zanzibar say preventing pupae and larvae from attaching themselves to the surface of the water takes the malaria fight to the next level. "By controlling them right at the source we hope to have an impact ultimately on the transmission of malaria," Knols said. He and fellow researchers chose Tanzania's Zanzibar archipelago for the pilot partly due to its progressive laws on the use of drones for research. "It is very difficult to just walk through the paddies and apply the chemicals, so you want to have something that can just spray it on the water surface. It spreads, does the job and that's it," said Wolfgang Richard Mukabana from the University of Nairobi, one of the researchers. [Reuters](#)

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Statins tied to risk of skin infections

4 November- Statins, commonly taken to reduce cholesterol, may increase the risk for skin infections. Statins are known to increase the risk for diabetes, and diabetes increases the risk for staphylococcus infections of the skin and underlying soft tissue. But a new study in the British Journal of Clinical Pharmacology suggests that the effect of statins on infection may also be independent of diabetes. Researchers used data from the Australian Department of Veterans' Affairs from 2001 to 2011 to track prescriptions for statins and match them with prescriptions for anti-diabetic medicines and prescriptions for antibiotics used to treat staph infections. Statin use, unsurprisingly, was associated with an increased risk for diabetes. But statin users had about a 40 percent increased relative risk for staph infections, and that risk was similar in patients with or without diabetes. Atorvastatin (brand name Lipitor) and simvastatin (Zocor) had the strongest associations with skin infections. The risk was greatest in the three months after starting the medicines, and declined with time, but was still significant at one year. Humphrey H.T. Ko of Curtin University in Perth, Australia, the study's lead author, said that no one should stop taking statins because of the risk of infection. "People taking statins should continue their medication as prescribed and discuss any concerns with their physicians," he said in an email message, "because the benefits of statins still largely outweigh the risk of diabetes and/or skin infections." [The New York Times](#)

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Study: Fecal transplants cut sepsis risk in patients with C. diff

4 November- Patients with Clostridioides difficile infection treated with fecal microbiota transplant (FMT) had lower risk of bloodstream infection, fewer days of hospitalization, and a higher increase in overall survival versus those treated with antibiotics, researchers in Italy found. In a propensity score-matched cohort, 4% of patients with C. difficile treated with FMT had bloodstream infections compared with 26% of the antibiotic-treated cohort, reported Gianluca Ianiro, MD, of Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore in Rome, and colleagues. Moreover, propensity score-matched patients in the FMT group had significantly shorter mean length of hospital stay compared to the antibiotic group (13.4 vs 27.8 days), they wrote in the Annals of Internal Medicine. Despite the current controversies associated with FMT, including a warning from the FDA after patients developed a multi-drug resistant infection following the procedure, the authors described FMT as a promising approach to treat C. difficile infections, particularly more severe ones, and outlined what role the procedure could play in the reduction of bloodstream infections in these patients. "In theory, the restoration of healthy microbiota through FMT might also prevent [C. difficile]-associated [bloodstream infections] via several mechanisms, including curing the infection, avoiding the need for vancomycin, and decreasing the expression of antibiotic resistance genes in the gut resistome of the patient," they wrote. "This could decrease the incidence of [bloodstream infections] related to multidrug-resistant bacteria." However, they noted that "neither preclinical nor clinical data support this hypothesis." [MedPage Today](#)

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INFLUENZA

WHO: Influenza Update

28 October 2019 - Update number 353, based on data up to 13 October 2019:

- In the temperate zone of the northern hemisphere, influenza activity remained at inter-seasonal levels in most countries. However, influenza activity continued to increase across the countries of the Arabian Peninsula.
- In the Caribbean, and tropical South American countries, influenza activity was low overall. In Central American countries, influenza activity increased in El Salvador and Nicaragua.
- In tropical Africa, increased influenza activity was reported from Western Africa.
- In Southern Asia, influenza activity was low across reporting countries.
- In South East Asia, influenza activity increased in Lao PDR and the Philippines in recent weeks.
- In the temperate zones of the southern hemisphere, influenza activity was low in most countries, though influenza B virus detections continued to be reported in Chile.

-Worldwide, seasonal influenza A viruses continued to account for the majority of detections, though the proportion of influenza B viruses increased in recent weeks. [WHO top of page...](#)

VETERINARY/FOOD SAFETY

22 tons of poultry that should not have been in U.S. recalled for skipping inspection

4 November- Cay Thi Queentrees Food USA, an importer of record out of Garden Grove, CA, has recalled 43,848 pounds of poultry products that were imported and distributed in the United States without the benefit of FSIS import re-inspection, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS). Additionally, the products were imported from Vietnam, a country ineligible to export poultry products to the United States. The poultry products entered the United States on Jan. 2 and 25. The following products are subject to recall:

454-g packages containing "SLOW-COOKED BLACK CHICKEN GA AC TIEM CORDYCEPS SINENSIS DONG TRUNG HA THAO" with lot code H9007 and a sell-by date Jan/02/2020 or Jan/25/2020.

454-g packages containing "SLOW-COOKED BLACK CHICKEN GA AC TIEM FIVE SPICE NGU VI" with lot code 8324/T8352 and a sell-by date Jan/02/2020 or Jan/25/2020.

454-g packages containing "SLOW-COOKED BLACK CHICKEN GA AC TIEM GINSEN NHAN SAM" with lot code A8328 and a sell-by date Jan/02/2020 or Jan/25/2020.

The recalled products were shipped to retail stores in California and sold via internet/catalog sales. During in-commerce surveillance activities, FSIS discovered the products went around the inspection protocols. [Food Safety News](#)

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Del Monte, Walmart, Kroger, Trader Joe's fresh vegetable products among those recalled for Listeria risk

4 November- Mann Packing Co. Inc. has recalled dozens of fresh vegetable products sold by some retailers in the United States and Canada. Brands in the U.S. subject to recall include Del Monte, Trader Joe's, Walmart Marketside, Kroger and HEB. The recall is a response to notifications by the Food and Drug Administration and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) of possible *Listeria monocytogenes* contamination. To date, public health officials have not reported any illnesses associated with these products. Mann Packing, with operations in Tallahassee, FL, and ownership based in Salinas, CA, issued a statement saying it recalled the products "out of an abundance of caution." Brands in the U.S. subject to recall include Del Monte, Walmart's Marketside, HEB, and Kroger. The recalled products have a "Best If Enjoyed By" date of October 11, 2019, to November 16, 2019. Consumers who

believe that they are in possession of any of the products affected by this recall should dispose of the product in an appropriate waste container. Here's the list. The U.S. products are followed by those available in Canada. [Food Safety News](#)

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Sausage recall expanded second time amidst Salmonella outbreak

6 November- Officials have expanded a sausage recall for a second time in relation to an investigation into a Salmonella Litchfield outbreak in Canada. A dozen people have been confirmed infected by the relatively rare strain of the pathogen. The Nov. 5 recall expansion adds two Filicetti brand products to the previous recalls on Oct. 16 and Oct. 17. The recalls involve sausages sold under three different brands — Filicetti, Longo's and Venetian. Filicetti Foods Inc. reported distributing the products, in various combinations, in the provinces of Alberta, British Columbia, Ontario, and Quebec. Public health officials and the Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) are concerned people may have unused portions of the recalled sausage in their homes. The newly recalled products are listed here. "Check to see if you have any recalled ready-to-eat dry cured sausage products in your home. If you do, do not eat them," the recall notice advises. "Throw recalled products out immediately and properly wash and sanitize any containers that were used to store these products before using them again. If you have any ready-to-eat dry cured sausage products without the original packaging and are unsure if these products are included in this advice, throw them out just to be safe." The Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) is reporting that laboratory tests have confirmed the outbreak strain of Salmonella Litchfield in a sample of the recalled sausage. Confirmed outbreak patients told investigators they had eaten sausage from Filicetti before they became ill. The investigation is ongoing and involves both PHAC and the CFIA. [Food Safety News](#)

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WELLNESS

Beyond bread and beans: Getting enough fiber when you have a food intolerance

4 November- If you're an average American adult, you're finding it difficult to get enough fiber in your diet. Though the average recommended daily intake is 25 grams for women and 38 grams for men, most Americans only consume about half of what they're supposed to. If you're an American with celiac disease or a wheat-related intolerance or irritable bowel syndrome, you're probably finding your attempts to close the "fiber gap" even more challenging. How can you get enough fiber when you can't consume bread or other fiber-rich foods, such as beans and some vegetables? Why does it even matter that you try? To begin with, fiber is important for digestive health, including providing food for the beneficial bacteria in our gut, or large intestine. A high-fiber diet can also help lower your "bad" LDL

— or low-density lipoprotein —cholesterol, prevent blood-sugar spikes after a meal and keep you feeling full longer. But the benefits of fiber go even deeper. In February, an analysis of almost 250 studies on carbohydrate quality and human health confirmed what should come as no surprise — that eating lots of fiber from vegetables, fruits, and whole grains can decrease your risk of dying from heart disease and cancer. Here’s what you need to know to protect your health if a food intolerance means you have to leave some fiber-rich products on the table. [The Washington Post](#)

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Screen use tied to children’s brain development

4 November- A new study using sophisticated brain scans found an association between screen use and the development of young children’s brains, especially in areas related to language development, reinforcing the messages about minimizing screen time for preschoolers. Let’s start with full disclosure: I know some of the authors of the research, which was published Monday in JAMA Pediatrics. The lead author is Dr. John S. Hutton, the director of the Reading and Literacy Discovery Center at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. I wrote about some of his research a few years ago, when he looked at how young children’s brains react to hearing stories, and have even collaborated with him in writing about children and reading, one of my favorite topics (the world of pediatricians obsessed with picture books is small and closely, well, networked). I am the national medical director of Reach Out and Read, the national organization that works through pediatric primary care to promote parents reading aloud with young children, and we will be celebrating our 30th anniversary this week in Boston. With that in mind, I’m especially interested in this study on how young children’s brains are shaped by the environment in which they grow. [The New York Times](#)

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USAFRICOM

DR Congo measles epidemic continues rise: Nearly 223K cases to date

4 November- Approximately 12,000 additional measles cases have been reported in the world’s largest outbreak in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in the past two weeks. Through October 20, officials report 222,939 measles cases, up from 209,211 cases on Oct. 6. In addition, the measles fatalities have risen to 4,435, more than double the deaths reported in the Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) outbreak (2185). Overall, 50% of cases reported in 2019 have been notified from the provinces of Tshopo, Kasai, Haut Lomami, Kwilu and South Ubangi. In total, 230 (44%) of the 519 health zones across the country have reported a confirmed measles outbreak. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Rabies: Karachi man is the latest death in Sindh, Pakistan

5 November- Health officials in Sindh province are reporting an additional human rabies death in a 45-year-old man from Karachi. The victim was admitted to Karachi's Jinnah hospital presenting with symptoms of irritability, difficulty swallowing and hydrophobia. According to reports from local media, the man was bitten by a rabid dog while trying to protect his daughter. He traveled to several hospitals seeking rabies post exposure prophylaxis but none was to be found. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Saudi Arabia reports 1st MERS case of November in Riyadh

3 November- The Saudi Arabia Health Ministry reported the first Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus (MERS-CoV) infection of November in a individual from Riyadh. The 58-year-old man had unknown contact with camels and it doesn't appear it was contracted person-to-person. Last month, the Kingdom saw 14 MERS-CoV cases. Globally, from 2012 through 8 October 2019, a total of 2,470 laboratory-confirmed cases of infection with MERS-CoV have been reported to WHO, including 851 associated deaths. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Sweden officials investigate Salmonella Newport outbreak

3 November- Swedish health officials aka Folkhalsomyndigheten report investigating a national outbreak of Salmonella infection last week. According to authorities, with the help of whole-genome sequencing, 25 cases of disease have been linked to an outbreak of Salmonella Newport. The cases are spread in 12 counties and have fallen ill from August 16 to October 12. The Swedish National Food Agency and the Public Health Agency together are investigating the outbreak to identify the source of the infection that is unknown so far. As part of the investigation, the cases are interviewed about what they ate before they became ill. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Bangladesh dengue outbreak declines by half in October

3 November- The dengue fever epidemic is slowing as seen in the decrease in cases reported in October. According to the Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) in Dhaka, 8143 dengue cases were reported in October. This is down from 16,856 cases reported in September and down significantly from the outbreak's peak in August when 52,636 cases were seen. There has been 550 cases reported in the first three days of this month, bringing the total for 2019 to 96,646 cases and 107 deaths. Just over 10,000 cases were reported in Bangladesh last year, the previous year high since dengue was first reported in 2000. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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Philippines dengue epidemic up to 370K cases, Indonesia cases up 'drastically'

5 November- It has been a record season for dengue fever in the Philippines in 2019. Between 1 January and 19 October 2019, 371,717 dengue cases including 1,407 deaths were reported through the DOH routine surveillance system, with a CFR of 0.38%. This is up from 180,072 cases and 927 deaths reported during the same period in 2018, a 106 percent increase. Since the beginning of the outbreak, children aged 5-9 years have consistently been the most affected age group among dengue cases (23%) and deaths (38%). Poverty, geographical remoteness, malnutrition and poor hygiene and sanitation are all contributing factors to the high mortality rate. Health officials in the Philippines declared a National Dengue Epidemic on August 6. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: East Texas- State Fair Linked to Legionnaires' Outbreak

2 November- 12 people may have developed Legionnaires' disease in the East Texas State Fair Legionnaires Outbreak. The Northeast Texas Public Health District alerts the public in East Texas that: Anyone who attended the East Texas State Fair in Tyler during September 2019 and is sick due to symptoms of Legionnaires' disease is urged to discuss Legionnaires' disease with your health care provider immediately. Public health investigators are working to identify how the outbreak happened. 7 confirmed cases of Legionnaires Disease and 5 possible cases have been linked to the East Texas State Fair, which was held on September 20th – September 29th. The Tyler Morning Telegraph reports that, "state health investigators have determined that all who are sick attended the East Texas State Fair that

took place Sept. 20-29 in Tyler. If exposed to the disease, attendees already would have exhibited symptoms." [Outbreak News Today](#)

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U.S.: Hantavirus case confirmed in Nebraska

6 November- Officials with the Southwest Nebraska Public Health Department (SWNPHD) have confirmed a hantavirus case in the district, the first such case reported in six years. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), hantavirus infection is usually found in rural areas where forest, fields and farms offer suitable habitat for rodents. Hantavirus in the US is spread to people from rodents like mice, most commonly when fresh rodent urine, droppings, or nesting materials are stirred up. Tiny droplets containing the virus get into the air and are then breathed in. "This can easily happen when cleaning out grain bins, barns or old abandoned buildings," states Melissa Propp, RN. Symptoms of hantavirus usually start out with vague flu-like symptoms approximately several days to 6 weeks after exposure. A fever for 3-5 days, headache, muscle aches, chills, non-productive cough, nausea, vomiting or other gastrointestinal symptoms like diarrhea or abdominal pain are common. Tiredness and lightheadedness may also be present. Most people recover fully but some cases of hantavirus may be severe or even fatal. "If you have flu-like symptoms and have cleaned out a building with evidence of rodents, alert your provider," states Propp.

[Outbreak News Today](#)

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USSOUTHCOM

Dengue cases double in Rio de Janeiro

6 November- The number of dengue fever cases in Rio de Janeiro have doubled in 2019 as compared to last year, according to a Noticias.R7 report. From January to October this year, there were more than 31,000 cases of dengue, 120% more than in the same period last year. They report that chikungunya cases have also doubled in Rio, while Zika cases dropping in numbers compared to 2019. [Outbreak News Today](#)

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